

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0837

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS USMISSION NATO, DIA WASHDC, USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GER.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: MARIO SOARES ON US VISIT AND CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE

SUMMARY: MARIO SOARES CALLED ON ME AT HIS REQUEST TO EXPRESS THROUGH ME TO THE SECRETARY HIS GREAT APPRECIATION FOR AN EXTREMELY PROFITABLE VISIT TO THE US. HIGHLIGHT WAS HIS FRUITFUL MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH SECRETARY(S GRASP OF PORTUGUESE SITUATION AND HIS DESIRE TO PROVIDE HELP TO DEMOCRATIC FORCES HERE. MELO ANTUNES HAD BEEN IRRITATED BY SOARES' STATEMENTS TO SECRETARY ON MPLA RECOGNITION AND SOARES' PROPOSAL FOR A VISIT TO US BY FINANCE MINISTER, BUT PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER WERE NOT PARTICULARLY TROUBLED. SOARES CONTINUES OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS; BELIEVES PACT BETWEEN POLITICAL PARTIES AND AFM WILL SHORTLY BE CONCLUDED ON A BASIS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTIES AND
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THAT ELECTIONS WILL DEFINITELY TAKE PLACE. HE STILL THINKS

SOCIALISTS WILL PROBABLY WIN, AND IS PARTICULARLY PLEASED BY INROADS BEING MADE BY SOCIALISTS INTO PCP LABOR STRONGHOLDS. END SUMMARY.

1. MARIO SOARES CAME TO MY RESIDENCE AT HIS REQUEST LAST NIGHT (FEBRUARY 5) TO EXPRESS TO ME AND THROUGH ME TO THE SECRETARY HIS VERY GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HIS EXCELLENT RECEPTION IN US. HE FOUND THE VISIT IN ALL RESPECTS PROFITABLE AND ENJOYABLE. WITH ONE MINOR EXCEPTION INVOLVING A "RIGHTWING PORTUGUESE GROUP" IN NEWARK, EVERY ONE OF HIS MEETINGS HAD BEEN FRUITFUL. HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP HAD BEEN MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, TO WHICH HE REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES. SAID HE HAD FOUND THE SECRETARY FRIENDLY, KNOWLEDGEABLE, AND ANXIOUS TO BE OF HELP TO THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL. HIS MEETING CONFIRMED HIS VIEW THAT U.S. WAS FOLLOWING A SKILLFUL AND ENLIGHTENED POLICY TOWARD PORTUGAL.

2. AN INTERESTING BYPLAY OF THE VISIT, SOARES SAID, WAS MELO ANTUNES' REACTION. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO THE US THEMIDO HAD SENT A REPORTING CABLE WHICH SOARES HAD REVIEWED IN ADVANCE. ON READING THE CABLE MELO ANTUNES WAS FURIOUS AND COMPLAINED TO BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER THAT SOARES WAS MAKING FOREIGN POLICY BY HIS COMMENTS TO THE SECRETARY THAT THE GOP WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE MPLA AND BY PROMOTING A VISIT TO US BY SOCIALIST FINANCE MINISTER SALGADO ZENHA. SOARES SAID HE TALKED TO BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER UPON HIS RETURN. THE FORMER WAS NOT PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT MELO ANTUNES' COMPLAINTS. THE LATTER SAID HE TOLD ANTUNES HE SAW NO REASON BY SOARES SHOULD CONSULT ANTUNES ON MATTERS HE DISCUSSES WITH THE USG WHEN ANTUNES HAD NOT EVEN BOTHERED TO CONSULT THE PRIME MINISTER OF PORTUGAL ON THE VOTE IN THE UN EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM. SOARES SAID HE ALSO MET WITH ANTUNES AND TOLD HIM HE HAD NO REASON TO BE IRRITATED WITH HIM, SOARES, SINCE ANTUNES WOULD NOT BE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER JOB IF THE SOCIALISTS HAD NOT AGREED TO IT.

3. SOARES HAS TESTED THE POLITICAL WATERS SINCE HIS RETURN AND IS ENCOURAGED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. THE MILITARY ARE NOW PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE PREPONDERANT VIEW OF THE PARTIES IN THE PACT NEGOTIATIONS, AND ELECTIONS ARE A VIRTUAL CER-
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TAINTY. SOARES SAID HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE SOCIALISTS WILL WIN BUT "EVEN IF WE DON'T, WE WILL ACCEPT THE RESULT AND GO INTO OPPOSITION, SINCE THAT IS THE NAME OF THE DEMOCRATIC GAME." SOARES IS PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY RECENT PROGRESS SOCIALISTS HAVE MADE IN COMMUNIST LABOR STRONGHOLDS AND BELIEVES THAT SHORTLY SOCIALISTS MAY BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER INTERSINDICAL FROM WITHIN.

4. SOARES WAS RELATIVELY RELAXED ABOUT SA CARNEIRO AND PPD. SAID HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY KIND OF FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH PPD SINCE THIS WOULD PUSH LEFTWING OF SOCIALISTS TOWARDS COMMUNISTS AND INCREASE COMMUNIST VOTE IN ELECTIONS. HOWEVER HE WAS NO LONGER AS TROUBLED AS HE WAS BY SA CARNEIRO'S O YDMPAL#ATTACKS. HE THOUGHT THE BEST TACTIC WAS SIMPLY TO IGNORE THEM.

5. I ASKED SOARES HOW HE FOUND PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO. SOARES SAID HE WAS IN VERY HIGH SPIRITS AND GETTING READY TO OFFER HIMSELF AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.
PARA 4. AS RECEIVED.

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